

State of the union

**I speak tonight for the dignity of man
and the destiny of democracy. ...**

**Our lives have been marked with
debate about great issues;**

**issues of war and peace,
issues of prosperity and depression.**

**But rarely in any time does an issue
lay bare the secret heart of America itself.**

**Rarely are we met with a challenge,
not to our growth or abundance,
our welfare or our security,**

**but rather to the values and the purposes
and the meaning of our beloved nation.**

**Lyndon Johnson,
March 15, 1965, calling for
passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965**